programme though implemented in 1991-92, the Central Government has not yet paid to the State Government completely its share in the expenditure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how and when this problem would be resolved and the assistance would be given what is due to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The National Welfare Scheme of Fishermen comprising of following components is in operation during the 10th Plan in the States/UTs including Kerala:

- Development of Model Fishermen Villages i.e. construction of fishermen houses, community hall and installation of tube wells for drinking water.
- Saving-cum Relief.
- Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen.

(b) to (d) The Central assistance is extended for these components of the scheme to the State/UTs on need basis on receipt of proposals, utilization certificate & progress report of funds released earlier, provision of matching State share and availability of funds under the scheme. Out of Rs. 20643.49 lakh released to all States/UTs during the IX and X Plan so far, Central assistance of Rs. 2605 lakh (12.62%) has been released to the Govt. of Kerala on receipt of proposals.

Crop Improvement Programme

1980. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative in the area of research and development under crop improvement programme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether sufficient funds have been made available therefore; if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken initiatives in areas of research and development through ICAR Institutes/Directorate/(s)/National Research Centres (NRCs) and All India Coordinate Research Projects located in different agro climatic zones/states. The programme is focused on development of varieties/hybrids and associated technologies suited for different agro-climatic regions across the country.

(b) The Institute(s)/Directorate(s)/NRC do not function on the basis of territorial jurisdiction. These are established on the basis of importance of crops and requirements. The Central Institutes/National Institutes of ICAR are undertaking the basic and strategic research and catering to the need of entire country and of different states. The AICRP centres are located in different states based on the crops grown and requirements.

(c) Yes, Sir. Budgetary allocations are made as per the requirement of the Institutes/Directorate(s)NRC(s) and AICRPs. The budget estimates for the year 2006-07 was about Rs. 376 crores under Plan.

(d) Not Applicable.

Milk production

1981. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated milk production in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of milk is stagnating or growing at a very slow pace;

(c) the under-lying reasons for the poor performance in the dairy sector;

(d) the steps proposed to improve dairy production;

(e) whether there is any scope of export of milk and dairy products to SAARC countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?